

This is a summary of the work the council is doing to tackle violence against women and girls. If you or someone you know needs help or you want to find out more please flip to the 'Useful Contacts' section on the back page.

SAFE HOMES

Support for Survivors

Solace Advocacy & Support Service provides support to survivors of domestic abuse, including practical and emotional support, information, advocacy, advice and safety planning. Specialist support is also available for young women and women experiencing multiple forms of disadvantage.

Counselling, group work, creative therapies and other therapeutic services are also offered to support survivors to recover and continue with their lives. In cases where these services are not suitable, we aim to support survivors to find an alternative that will meet their individual needs.

Opportunities for behaviour change

RISE works with people using abusive and violent behaviours to break the cycle of harm, reduce reoffending, and develop better relationships with their families and society. RISE's interventions challenge attitudes and facilitate long-lasting behaviour change by guiding perpetrators of domestic abuse through a process of change, with a combination of group work and one-to-one sessions.

Domestic Abuse Drop-In Service

Based in Family Centres around the borough drop-ins run 5 days a week and no appointment is necessary. Anyone can attend to talk to a specialist practitioner to get tailored advice, safety planning, and referrals to services that can meet specific needs.



For information about the times and venues of the drop-ins, go to:

www.walthamforest.gov.uk/neighbourhoods/community-safety/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-one-stop-shop

Our Housing Service has committed to redesigning how survivors of domestic abuse are supported to access safe and secure housing. This programme has involved providing training to repairs contractors and estate caretakers on the signs of domestic abuse they may come across and the action they should take;

- ✓ Amending procedures to make it easier for survivors to be rehoused or access housing;
- ✓ Introducing a Housing Independent Violence Advocate to support survivors who approach the housing service for support.

A refuge is a safe house where women and children who are experiencing abuse can stay. Refuges have specialist support workers who support survivors in rebuilding their lives. Any woman who needs to escape from abuse can go into a refuge at any time.

Our specialist team coordinates the multi-agency safeguarding response to violence against women and girls. This includes the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel and Daily Risk Management Meetings. The team works closely with Adult & Children's Social Care, Health, Specialist community-based services, and the police to promote a multi-agency partnership response to violence and abuse.

Using the internationally recognised Safe and Together Model™ our children's services staff are enabled to partner with domestic abuse survivors and intervene with domestic abuse perpetrators in order to enhance the safety and well-being of children. This child-centred domestic abuse way informed model recognises survivor strengths and promotes children's safety and well-being.



In Waltham Forest we have been building awareness of the impact of FGM and other harmful practices within communities, Early Years settings, and Secondary Schools. We are also working with partner agencies to support pregnant women who have experienced FGM and their families.



SAFE STREETS

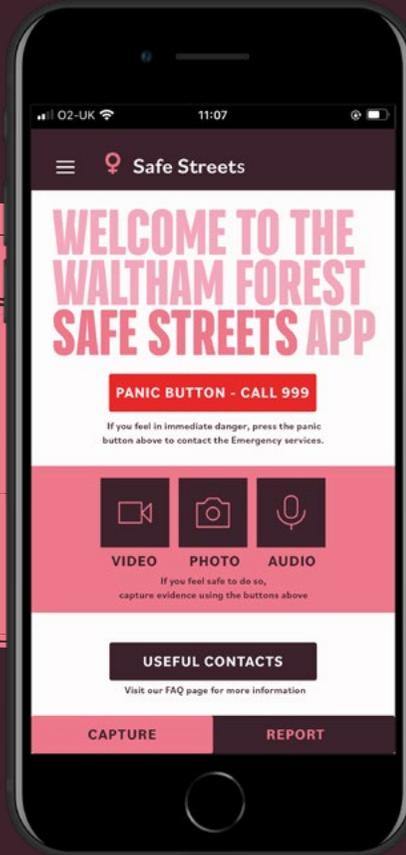


Waltham Forest Safe Streets App

Waltham Forest Council is committed to building a borough where women and girls feel safe.

The WF safe streets app will enable users to:

- ✓ Report incidents of street harassment in the borough
- ✓ Get access to specialist support
- ✓ Report incidents for investigation by police or council, anonymously if preferred
- ✓ A direct route through to the 24/7 Stop Hate UK helpline



Our Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team and CCTV Operations receive training to ensure they are able to identify violence against women and girls, use appropriate tools and tactics to hold perpetrators to account, and ensure survivors are provided with safe, caring responses.

The council leads regular ward walks along with police and local women to highlight areas where women feel unsafe or have

experienced harassment or abuse. We draw on residents' experiences to make improvements to CCTV coverage, street lighting and visibility.

The Council works with police to ensure perpetrators of violence against women and girls are held to account. For example,

deploying joint operations to address street-based sexual harassment.

Plain clothed and uniformed officers patrol areas of concern handing out penalty notices to perpetrators. Emphasising that street-based harassment is not tolerated in our borough.



Did you know?

In early 2020 the Waltham Forest Citizens Assembly on Hate recommended that street-based harassment be recognised as a hate crime

SAFE SCHOOLS

Violence Against Women and Girls Whole School Approach

We firmly believe that young women and girls have the right to a community, home and education that is free from violence and abuse. This is why we are working with schools, colleges and education settings in the borough to ensure we are doing everything we can to prevent violence against women and girls.

Schools and colleges are offered a range of programmes to disrupt and prevent sexual harassment, create safe spaces for students and empower young people to challenge misogyny, becoming active leaders in ending violence against women and girls.

The programmes includes:

- ✓ Violence against women and girls awareness raising sessions
- ✓ A peer-led bystander intervention programme
- ✓ Teacher training
- ✓ Awareness raising sessions for parents
- ✓ Policy support
- ✓ Specialist VAWG support



Operation Encompass

The effects of domestic abuse can be devastating on children. We work in partnership with the police and local schools to deliver Operation Encompass. This involves police informing schools of domestic incidents where children reside in the household, enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse.

SAFE COMMUNITIES

Safe Neighbourhood Project

We are partnering with community settings to provide more accessible support for people affected by gender based violence. We are training staff in a range of businesses and settings including libraries, gyms and family centres to create safe disclosure spaces for survivors and perpetrators who want to access services. We are also raising awareness within the community so that we can help end violence against women and girls together.

All our work on violence against women and girls is informed by the lived experiences of survivors. Our Advisory Panel is made up of local women who have been impacted by violence and abuse. The Panel provides consultation to strengthen our survivor-centred approach within the borough and influence Waltham Forest's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Plan, leading to real life outcomes for women and girls.

Community Champions

We have launched a community-based programme to build a network of Violence Against Women and Girls Champions across the borough. Residents will be able to undertake formal training delivered by our specialist practitioners. The Champions

will be vital sources of information in their communities, increasing access to support services for survivors and helping to challenge and respond to all forms of violence and abuse.

Stand by Her

We work with men who are committed to ending violence against women and girls. Delivered by Communities Inc, Stand By Her is a unique programme which works with men to address the root cause of male violence: men's harmful attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls. We want men to become allies to women; becoming part of the solution to ending misogyny in our society. Stand by Her encourages men to play an active role in addressing harmful behaviours, the programme offers men practical ways to respond to harmful behaviour they encounter. This differs from approaches which place the responsibility on women to keep themselves safe.

Support at local GP surgeries

IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) is a GP-based response to domestic abuse that provides early identification and referral into specialist support for survivors. IRIS offers training to all staff in GP Surgeries, one-to-one support to survivors, and ongoing awareness-raising about domestic abuse.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Services provided in Waltham Forest

Ashiana Network

Phone: 020 8539 0427

www.ashiana.org.uk/

Supporting South Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish women experiencing any forms of VAWG, including harmful practices such as: Forced marriage; Honour-based violence, and; Female genital mutilation

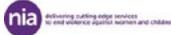


NIA - East London Rape Crisis

Phone: 0800 160 1036

niaendingviolence.org.uk/get-help/sexual-violence-and-abuse/

Support service for women and girls who have experienced sexual violence, including specialist support for women and girls who are minoritised



Solace Women's Aid

Phone: 07340 683382

www.solacewomensaid.org/

Support for people affected by domestic abuse

solace

Kiran Support Services

Phone: 0208 558 1986

www.kiranss.org.uk/

Specialist Support for Asian women and children experiencing domestic abuse



Rise

Phone: 07495 099694

www.risemutual.org

Behaviour change programme for people using abusive and violent behaviours



Pan-London and National services

London Survivors Gateway

Phone: 0808 801 0860

www.survivorsgateway.london

The London Survivors Gateway supports any victim or survivor of rape or sexual abuse aged 13+ to access specialist services in London



National Domestic Abuse Helpline

Phone: 0808 2000 247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

24-hour support and advice for anyone experiencing domestic abuse



National Rape Crisis Helpline

Phone: 0808 802 9999

www.rasasc.org.uk/helpline

Support to women and girls who have experienced any form of sexual violence



National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline

Phone: 0800 999 5428

www.galop.org.uk/get-help/helplines

Support for LGBT+ people experiencing domestic abuse



Respect Phoneline

Phone: 0808 802 4040

www.respectphoneline.org.uk

Support for perpetrators of domestic abuse to change their abusive behaviour



For more information and to find out how you can support please email:

VAWG@walthamforest.gov.uk